

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05440 271729Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-07 /103 W
-----281258Z 086489 /47

R 271534Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9974
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 5440

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BE, CG
SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: MILITARY AID TO ZAIRE

REF BRUSSELS 5042 (NOTAL)

1. DURING WIDE RANGING, USEFUL CONSULTATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR CUTLER MAY 26, BELGIAN MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL VENDEN BLOOCK SAID GOB WAS BEGINNING TO PONDER THE MILITARY LESSONS OF SHABA INVASION. HE EXPLAINED LIMITATIONS ON GOB FREEDOM OF ACTION TO RESPOND TO MOBUTU'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE (REFTEL). HE RE-STATED PRESENT POLICY, NAMELY TO KEEP TRAINING ASSISTANCE WITHIN EXISTING DEFENSE MINISTRY BUDGETARY CEILING WITH ANY PROGRAM CHANGES OR ADDITIONAL FUNDING DEFERRED UNTIL THE NEW BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS FORMED.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05440 271729Z

ANY INCREASE IN MILITARY AID TO ZAIRE WOULD BE A "DIFFICULT" POLITICAL DECISION, HE SAID, IN LIGHT OF MOBUTU'S DECLINING POPULARITY AMONG BELGIANS.

2. VANDEN BLOOCK SAID BELGIUM WOULD AWAIT FIRM CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF JOINT ZAIRIAN/BELGIAN/FRENCH STUDY GROUP BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISIONS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. HE

THOUGHT THIS PROCESS WOULD TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME AND SPECULATED RUEFULLY ON WHAT BELGIANS WOULD BE ABLE TO SAY TO MOBUTU WHO WILL ARRIVE JUNE 11 WITH OBVIOUSLY MORE TO SAY THAN "THANK YOU" TO GOB. HE SAID THE IDENTITY OF BELGIUM'S NEXT FOREIGN MINISTER (AN OLD CHUM OF MOBUTU'S LIKE FORMER PRIME MINISTER EDMUND LEBURTON PERHAPS?) WOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE BEARING ON BELGIAN POLICY FOR ZAIRE.

3. VANDEN BLOOCK, SAYING HE WAS EXPRESSING HIS OWN VIEWS, DISCUSSED FRANCE'S ROLE IN MEETING THE SHABA INVASION. HE CALLED THE ACTIVIST FRENCH REACTION AS "QUITE REVEALING" OF FRANCE'S AFRICAN POLICY WHICH HE SAID AIMED AT RETAINING A STRONG PRESENCE IN THE OLD FRANCOPHONE AFRICA, NOT EXCEPTING ZAIRE. IN THIS CONTEXT VANDEN BLOOCK WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER A SMALL COUNTRY LIKE BELGIUM WAS UP TO PLAYING A BIG-POWER ROLE IN ZAIRE, BUT CONCLUDED THAT BELGIUM WOULD "RELUCTANTLY" HAVE TO RESPOND TO ZAIRE'S REQUEST FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE BECASUE "WE CANNOT ESCAPE FROM ACTING POSITIVELY TOWARDS ZAIRE IF OTHER DO." RENNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE05440
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770191-0924
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770511/aaaaajga.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 07a26088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRUSSELS 5042
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2343580
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA INVASION: MILITARY AID TO ZAIRE
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BE, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/07a26088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009